

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-2 (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a first direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

a second direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

an image designating unit ~~(227)~~ for designating ~~either one~~ of the first image data and the second image data, wherein the image-angle correcting unit corrects the tilt of the image data designated by the image designating unit so that the direction of the designated image data coincides with ~~that~~ the direction of the other image data.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus ~~according to claim 1,~~ comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a first direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

a second direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

wherein the image-angle correcting unit corrects the tilt of either at least one of the first image data and the second image data by an arbitrary angle.

Claim 5 (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a touch panel which is operable as a first direction-designating unit to designate a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device, and which is operable as a second direction-designating unit to designate a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a

comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

~~wherein the first and the second direction-designating unit comprise a touch panel and designate~~ designates the direction of the first image data and the direction of the second image data using coordinates which represent positions on the touch panel where a user touches.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

an angle sensor which is operable as a first direction-designating unit to designate a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device, and which is operable as a second direction-designating unit to designate a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

wherein the ~~first and the second direction-designating unit~~ comprise an angle sensor for detecting ~~detects~~ an angle and ~~designate a~~ designates the direction of the first image data and the direction of the second image data based on the detected angle.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ An image pickup apparatus according to claim 1, comprising:

a storage device for storing first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

a first direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

a second direction-designating unit for designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

a direction-comparing unit for comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

an image-angle correcting unit for adjusting a tilt of at least one of the first and the second image data depending on a comparison result produced by the direction-comparing unit so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

an image composing unit for combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted by the image-angle correcting unit; and

wherein the first direction-designating unit and the second direction-designating unit comprise key buttons and designate a direction based on a direction of ~~the~~ a depressed at least one of the key button buttons.

Claims 9-10 (Cancelled).

11. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A photographing method ~~according to claim 9, further comprising the step of comprising:~~

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted; and

g) designating ~~either one~~ of the first image data and the second image data, wherein the tilt of the designated image data is corrected so that the direction of the designated image data coincides with ~~that~~ the direction of the other image data ~~(e06, e09).~~

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The A~~ photographing method ~~according to claim 9, further comprising the step of comprising:~~

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide; and

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted;

wherein the tilt of ~~either~~ at least one of the first image data and the second image data is corrected by an arbitrary angle.

Claims 13-15 (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The~~ A storage medium ~~recording the photographing method according to claim 14, which method further comprises the step of~~ having recorded thereon a computer readable



program for controlling a control unit of a camera to perform functions of:

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide;

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted; and

g) designating ~~either one~~ of the first image data and the second image data, wherein the tilt of the designated image data is corrected so that the direction of the designated image data coincides with ~~that~~ the direction of the other image data-(C00, e09).

17. (Currently Amended) ~~The A storage medium recording the photographing method according to claim 14, in which method having recorded thereon a computer readable program for controlling a control unit of a camera to perform functions of:~~

a) storing in a storage device first image data and second image data obtained respectively in a first photographing operation and a second photographing operation;

b) designating a direction for the first image data stored in the storage device;

c) designating a direction for the second image data stored in the storage device;

d) comparing the directions designated respectively for the first image data and the second image data;

e) adjusting a tilt of one of the first image data and the second image data depending on a comparison result of the comparison so that the directions of the first image data and the second image data are made to coincide; and

f) combining the first image data and the second image data, as adjusted;

wherein the tilt of ~~either~~ at least one of the first image data and the second image data is corrected by an arbitrary angle.

Claim 18 (Cancelled).